



January — April 2004

# Environmental Action Update

A Quarterly Newsletter About Environmental Activities at McClellan

## Air Force concludes Five-Year Review

Air Force officials recently completed an extensive review of the former McClellan Air Force Base environmental cleanup. The review found that cleanup strategies are effectively protecting people and the environment.

Their findings are part of a Five-Year Review. This review, McClellan's second, is required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the law that governs the cleanup.

The purpose of the review was to:

- Determine if selected methods are working;
- Document methods, results and conclusions; and
- Identify any remaining issues and make recommendations.

McClellan is home to the Air Force's largest environmental cleanup effort, which includes 318 sites. The Five-Year Review examined cleanup actions and environmental issues at these sites. These included groundwater treatment systems, soil vapor extraction systems, CS 10, fencing and other cleanup in progress.

Three key questions were used to determine whether a cleanup method protects human

### cleanup working as intended

health and the environment:

- Is the remedy working as intended?
- Are the assumptions, contaminant information and cleanup levels used at the time of the cleanup method selection still valid?
- Has any new information come out that would cause one to question how well the cleanup protects people and the environment?

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*Workers tested and removed contaminated soil as part of a sampling and cleanup effort at SA 035, the former location of an underground storage tank. Now that the site has been cleaned, the Air Force is proposing it become available to Sacramento County for unrestricted use.*

# Air Force completes removal of contaminated soil at OU B1 Drainage Ditch

Air Force officials announced they have finished removing contaminated soil from the Operable Unit B1 (OU B1) Drainage Ditch at the former McClellan Air Force Base.

The OU B1 Drainage Ditch is a 6,000-foot-long drainage ditch contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), trace amounts of metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and dioxin. Approximately 4,500 feet of the ditch are unlined, and 1,500 feet are lined with Gunitite.

The OU B1 Drainage Ditch was contaminated by runoff from affected soil. Used oil from transformers stored at the Defense Reutilization Marketing Office (DRMO) storage yard from the 1960s to the 1990s had drained into the soil. Used oil also was sprayed in the storage yard to control dust.



In 1993, the DRMO yard was covered with an asphalt cap to prevent exposure to humans or the environment. The cap also prevents the contaminants from spreading.

Since contamination in the drainage ditch was considered a potential threat to the environment, the Air Force removed 2,164 cubic yards of contaminated soil, including 2 feet of sediment from the ditch. The soil was removed 6 inches at a time. Soil sampling was done to determine the extent of contamination.

After cleanup was confirmed, the drainage ditch was filled with clean soil, graded, compacted and restored to its original configuration.

The removal addresses both the human health and ecological concerns when combined with institutional controls, such as chain link fencing. Institutional controls are necessary to deal with trace amounts of PCBs in soil beneath the Gunitite-lined sections of the drainage ditch.

The use of institutional controls was agreed upon by the Air Force, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Game.

The Air Force will continue to inspect, monitor, and maintain the site until a final cleanup is decided on in the Strategic Sites Record of Decision. ■

## McClellan Environmental Remedial Scoreboard

As of April 1, 2004:

~~1198,617~~

Pounds of volatile organic compound contamination removed from soil and groundwater.



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The *Environmental Action Update* is a publication of the Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) at McClellan, California, designed to keep the public informed of environmental activities at the base. For questions, comments, or to be added to the mailing list, please write to AFRPA/DD-McClellan, 3411 Olson Street, McClellan, CA 95652-1003 or phone (916) 643-1742 ext. 232.

Environmental Action  
**Update**

[www.afarpa.hq.af.mil/mcclellan](http://www.afarpa.hq.af.mil/mcclellan)

BRAC Environmental Coordinator Paul Brunner

Mc-News-may04, CDR LCT 04.15.04 SAC



**Microwave GAC regeneration unit** - A technician makes adjustments to the microwave carbon regeneration and chemical recovery system recently tested at the former McClellan AFB. The microwave-



based gas cleanup process is designed to capture and recover a variety of solvents from carbon treatment units. Cleaned granular activated carbon (GAC) can be recycled, which saves money on the cleanup.

**CS 10 update** - The CS 10 weatherization tent shows the effects of an intense February storm that twisted a part of the structure's support frame. Rainwater that entered the tent was captured and used for dust suppression on the material stockpiled inside the tent. The manufacturer and installer are repairing the damage. Meanwhile, perimeter air monitoring demonstrated there continues to be no exposure to the public from contaminants in the soil.



**Golf course handover** - Larry Kelly of McClellan Park (left) and Katie Jacobson of the Local Redevelopment Authority (center) are all smiles as they present Tom Kempster, the Air Force Real Property Agency Senior Representative, with a \$1 million check for the 60-acre former Lawrence Links Golf Course. To date, 275 acres of McClellan's 3,452 acres have been deeded to Sacramento County, while an additional 2,420 acres are being leased.

*Continued from front page*

## **Air Force concludes Five-Year Review - cleanup functioning as intended (cont.)**

"Cleanup systems in place at McClellan have removed over 1,229,000 pounds of solvents from the soil and groundwater to date," said Paul Brunner, McClellan's BRAC Environmental Coordinator. "That includes 13 soil vapor extraction systems that are treating solvents removed from the soil from areas affecting 91 cleanup sites."

Regarding groundwater, he continued, "The groundwater treatment plant and its network of extraction wells ensures contaminants are treated in place and are not migrating off base. Meanwhile, samples are collected to monitor containment of the contaminants."

"Overall, the Five-Year Review is a required examination that checked our systems and procedures

and determined that potential exposure that could result in unacceptable risk is being controlled," he concluded.

Regulatory agencies have reviewed the Five-Year Review report. Next, the Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator will issue a letter indicating agreement or disagreement with the Air Force's conclusions.

*Anyone interested in examining the Five-Year Review report can do so by visiting the Information Repository Administrative Record at Building 10, first floor, 3411 Olson Street, McClellan. Also, once finalized it will be posted on the Web site. For more information, call Community Relations at 643-1742, ext. 232 or 257. ■*

AFRPA/DD  
3411 Olson Street  
McClellan, CA 95652-1003

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



*For more information about McClellan's  
Installation Restoration Program, please call:*

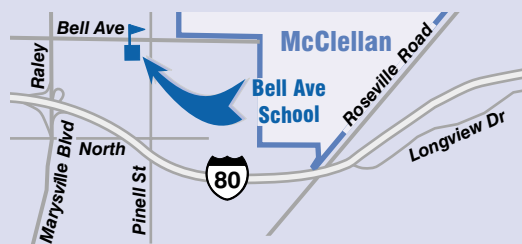
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[www.afrpa.hq.af.mil/mcclellan](http://www.afrpa.hq.af.mil/mcclellan)

**RAB Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 18th, 2004**  
**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
at Bell Avenue School,  
1900 Bell Ave., Sacramento



## New RAB Members

**Jennifer Weidhaas**  
Student  
representative

**Jim Roberts**  
Rio Linda residents  
and religious  
community

**Betsy Weiland**  
Environmental  
stakeholder



### Panel discusses removing creek tailings piles -

*Air Force and regulatory agency staff participated in a panel at the December Restoration Advisory Board meeting. Panelists discussed their agreement to remove contaminated sediment piles along McClellan's creeks. These sediments were dredged from the creeks in 1997. This year, a project will evaluate the most cost-effective means to remove the piles and limit habitat disturbance.*

*(left to right) Jim Hardwick, California Dept. of Fish and Game; Paul Brunner, BRAC Environmental Coordinator for McClellan; Beckye Stanton, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Molly Enloe, McClellan Environmental Natural Resources Coordinator; Ned Black, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9; Glenn Kistner, US EPA Region 9; and Kevin Depies, California Dept of Toxic Substances Control participated in a panel discussion during the December RAB meeting.*



**Shallow soil gas training -** RAB members Bill Gibson and Betsy Weiland test for solvents and oils in an experiment simulating those compounds in shallow soil gas during a January training session. The training gave RAB members insight into how the Air Force is measuring these compounds in the upper 15 feet of soil at the former base, and working to ensure that concentrations of the compounds that may be in the soil do not pose an exposure risk.